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PROSPECTUS.

THE MADISONIAN will be devoted to the support of the principles and doctrines of the democratic party, as delineated by Mr. Madison, and will aim to consummate that political reform in the theory and practice of the national government, which has been repeatedly indicated by the general suffrage, as essential to the peace and prosperity of the country, and to the perfection and perpetuity of its free institutions. At this time a singular state of affairs is presented. The commercial interests of the country are overwhelmed with embarrassment; its monetary concerns are unusually distressed; every ramification of social life seems threatened with disorganization; every ear is filled with predictions of evil and the murmurings of despondency; the general government is boldly assailed by a large and respectable portion of the people, as the direct cause of their difficulties; open resistance to the laws is publicly encouraged, and a spirit of insubordination is the consequence, as a necessary defence to the pretended usurpations of the party in power; some, from whom better things were hoped, are making the "confusion worse confounded," by a headlong pursuit of extreme notions and indefinite phantasies, totally incompatible with a wholesome state of the country. In the midst of all these difficulties and embarrassments, it is feared that many of the less informed friends of the administration, and supporters of democratic principles are wavering in their confidence, and beginning, without cause, to view with distrust those men to whom they have been long attached, and whose elevation they have labored to promote from honest and patriotic motives. Exulting in the anticipation of dismay and confusion amongst the supporters of the administration, and the consequent triumph of the opposition are consoling themselves with the idea that Mr. Van Buren's friends, as a national party, are verging to dissolution; and they allow no opportunity to pass unimproved to give eclat to their own doctrines. They are, indeed, maturing plans for their own future government of the country, with seeming confidence of certain success.

This confidence is increased by the fact, that visionary theories, and an unwarranted adherence to the plan for *castles in the air*, metallic currency have unfortunately carried some beyond the actual and true policy of the government; and, by impairing public confidence in the credit system, which ought to be preserved and regulated, but not destroyed, have tended to increase the difficulties under which the country is now laboring. All these seem to indicate a necessity for a more vigorous administration of the government, to be established upon sound principles, and to represent faithfully, and not to dictate, the real policy of the administration, and the true sentiments, measures, and interests, of the great body of its supporters. The necessity also appears of the adoption of more conservative principles than the conduct of those who seem to indicate who seek to remedy abuses by destroying the institutions which they are found connected. Indeed some measure of contribution is deemed essential to the enhancement of our own self-respect at home, and to the promotion of the honor and credit of the nation abroad.

To meet these indications this undertaking has been instituted, and it is hoped that it will produce the effect of inspiring the timid with courage, the desponding with hope, and the whole country with confidence in the administration of the government. In this view, this journal will not seek to lead, or to follow any faction, or to advocate the views of any particular detachment of men. It will aspire to accord a just measure of support to each of the co-ordinate branches of the government, in the lawful exercise of their constitutional prerogatives. It will address itself to the understandings of men, rather than appeal to any unworthy prejudices or evil passions. It will rely invariably upon the principle, that the strength and security of American institutions depend upon the intelligence and virtue of the people.

THE MADISONIAN will not, in any event, be made the instrument of arraying the north and the south, the east and the west, in hostile attitudes towards each other, upon any subject of either general or local interest. It will reflect only that spirit and those principles of mutual concession, compromise, and reciprocal good-will, which so eminently characterized the inception, formation, and subsequent adoption, by the several States, of the constitution of the United States. Moreover, in the same hallowed spirit that has, at all periods since the adoption of that sacred instrument, characterized its defense by men, rather than appeal to any unworthy prejudices or evil passions. It will rely invariably upon the principle, that the strength and security of American institutions depend upon the intelligence and virtue of the people.

If, in this responsible undertaking, it shall be our good fortune to succeed to any degree in promoting the harmony and prosperity of the country, or in conciliating jealousies, and allaying the asperities of party warfare, by denouncing selfishly towards each other; by indulging in personal animosities towards none; by conducting itself in the belief that it is perfectly practicable to differ with others in matters of principle and of expediency, without a mixture of personal unkindness or loss of reciprocal respect; and by "asking nothing that is not clearly right, and submitting to nothing that is wrong," then, and not otherwise, will the full measure of its mission be accomplished, and its primary rule for guidance be sufficiently observed and satisfied.

This enterprise has not been undertaken without the approbation, advice, and pledged support of many of the leading and soundest minds in the ranks of the democratic republican party, in the extreme north and in the extreme south, in the east and in the west. An association of both political experience and talent of the highest order will render it competent to carry forward the principles by which it is guided, and make it useful as a political organ, and interesting as a journal of news. Arrangements also have been made to fix the establishment upon a substantial and permanent basis. The subscriber, therefore, relies upon the public for so much of their confidence and encouragement into as the fidelity of his press to their great national interests shall prove itself entitled to receive.

THOMAS ALLEN.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C. July, 1837.

BANK ABSTRACT.

We are indebted to Mr. Bigelow, secretary of the Commonwealth, for a copy of the abstract from the returns of banks in Massachusetts, showing the state of those banks on the first Saturday of October, 1837. The following is the aggregate account. The whole number of banks is 13; capital stock paid in, \$38,000,000; bills in circulation, \$1,000,000; deposits, \$7,654,366; bills in circulation less than five dollars, \$2,618,752; net profits on hand, \$1,514,535; balances due to other banks, \$5,721,939; 34 cash deposited, &c., not bearing interest, \$8,407,198; cash deposited, bearing interest, \$5,592,250; due from the banks, \$69,860,128; gold, silver, &c. in banks, \$1,517,934; real estate, \$1,155,722; bills of banks in this state, \$2,736,976; 14; bills of banks elsewhere, \$191,641; 38; balances due from other banks, \$5,814,224; due to the banks, excepting balances, \$58,414,483; total resources of the banks, \$69,940,093; amount of the last semi-annual dividend \$1,000,350; amount of reserved profits, \$1,555,551; 99; debts secured by pledge of stock, \$2,139,545; 57; debts due and considered doubtful, \$750,545; 57; rate of semi-annual dividend on amount of capital of the banks, as existing when dividend was made, a fraction more than 2 and 13-16 of one per cent.—Boston Transcript.

A Match for the Kentucky Giant.—The Mayville Monitor, mentions a young man named Browning, residing in Fleming County, Kentucky, just seventeen years of age, who measures seven feet in height. Porter, the giant, is said to stand seven feet and five inches in his stocking feet.

THE MADISONIAN.

VOL. I.

WASHINGTON CITY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1837.

NO. 45.

A TRAGEDY OF THE AMERICAN WOODS.

From the London Metropolitan for October.

Just as the shades of evening were beginning to unshroud the deep valley that reposes at the foot of the wild and lofty Pocono mountains, I approached a lone cottage which was marked out on my travelling chart as the place for me to pass the night in. Although I had never been in that part of the country, yet the building of squared logs or "blocks," that now presented itself, was in some measure an old acquaintance, since poor, and lonely, and cheerless as it seemed it had acquired a name in the history of that part of the country with which it was connected. Its wooden walls were blackened with the tempests of half a century, and the traditional tales connected with it were familiar to every child in the distant settlement. A person of the name of Lamer had been induced to settle here before any of the valleys in the Southern district of country (now full of people) contained one white inhabitant. What induced this hardy man to bury himself and a young family in the wilderness so far from all the pale-faces, as the Indians called the white people in those days, is difficult to conceive.

On his way to this secluded dell he must have passed through many a valley which presented a fertile soil and a more serene climate; but induced by some feeling which must now forever remain a secret, Lamer, with a wife and four or five children, accompanied by a younger brother, took possession of the extreme head of a mountain valley, and there built the sombre-looking building now before me. It has been surmised by many, that the contiguity to the adjoining mountain was his chief inducement to settle here, for he was a remarkably keen hunter. There certainly were more wolves and panthers in that vicinity than in any other part of the state, besides an abundance of elk and deer, with a great variety of game of smaller note. They did not devote their time exclusively to hunting; for when they had resided here some half score years, they had managed to clear away the forest trees from a few acres of land, sufficient to grow more grain than the family would consume. About this period they were waited on by two Indian warriors of the Six Indians, who informed the Larners, that, if they valued their own safety, they must immediately fly from the abode they had so long inhabited. This piece of intelligence which was delivered with apparent sincerity, was at the time but little heeded, for although they had never before been actually threatened by the Indians who had occasionally visited them they had sometimes used a little caution when they suspected a party of Indians were any where in the vicinity.

One day, shortly after the visit of the two warriors, the younger of the brothers returned from an excursion on the mountain, with the somewhat startling intelligence that he had crossed, in his way down the trail of an Indian party; and he should judge from its appearance that the number was something considerable. He farther stated, that he had, from the summit of the adjoining hill, carefully surveyed the forests all around; but no curling smoke rose above the green foliage (for it was summer,) to denote their hunting fires, neither had he heard the report of fire arms during the whole day. To those acquainted with the subtlety of the Indian character, this report was somewhat alarming, and the lone family determined to be circumspect in all their movements. Their arms consisted of three rifles, one used by each of the brothers, and the remaining one by the eldest son, a stout youth of nineteen. It was agreed that they should keep watch during the night—the brothers and the son taking it by turns—and the fire was extinguished before it became quite dark.

Some hours after midnight, and while the father of the family was keeping watch, he thought he perceived a bright spark of fire advancing slowly across the small piece of meadow in the direction of the house, and as it came nearer he distinctly saw part of the body of a naked Indian. There was no mistaking the intention of the incendiary; and as all was parched and dry with the scorching suns of July, a fire once kindled against the time-seasoned log walls of their dwelling, the whole dwelling would be in a blaze in a few minutes. Lamer was in the upper story in an opening in one end of the building; but as the Indian came nearer he changed his course a little as if he intended to make his fire in the rear of the house. It was a moment of extreme anxiety with Lamer. If he permitted the villain to pass the rear of the building, they were all in a short time to be burnt, and most probably massacred by the merciless beings, no doubt in ambush close by. If he fired and shot him, retribution would certainly await them all, and in either case he considered them a doomed family. But he did fire; and long before the reverberations were silent in the adjoining mountains, the Indian had given one lofty bound and shrieked the shriek of death. The report of the rifle brought the whole family to his side, and he related to them all that had taken place; and it seemed a matter of doubt whether the Indians would attack them under cover of the yet remaining darkness, or postpone their onset until the return of day. It seems they did wait for daylight, and when it returned they commenced firing at the different windows or openings, wherever they imagined they might reach the inmates. This plan, however, had not much effect. One of the younger children received its death wound; but the rest escaped unharmed for the present.

As I before stated, in the back part of these buildings there was no opening. The Indians finding the plan of firing at the windows not likely to produce much effect, determined upon making a circuit through the neighboring woods, and thereby gain the defenceless rear of the dwelling. This plan, however, was anticipated by the besieged; for when the firing ceased, the Larners suspected they would make this movement. The two brothers, therefore, without much difficulty contrived to make two small openings in the shingled roof; and when the assailants emerged from the woods behind the building, the two leaders were instantly shot down.—The rest, unappalled, rushed forward, and before the brothers could re-load their pieces, there were a score of the savages under the shelter of the building. The son, too, had not been idle; for by thrusting one half of his person through the end window, he had been enabled to fire upon them as they rushed for

the house, and he made one of them bite the dust. Yet, after all, what availed it? The Indians would instantly set fire to the house, and they would all be burnt alive. The brothers, therefore, resolved upon the family quitting the premises, and making for the woods. But this plan was nearly fatal to the whole party; for before they had crossed the slight hollow in front of the woods the two brothers and three of the children fell to rise no more.

The eldest son was singled out by a tall powerful Indian, who pursued him across the field of growing rye. They were each armed with a rifle, but neither of them stopped to fire. Young Lamer perceived that the Indian gained rapidly upon him, for his knee had been slightly injured by a ball, he thought himself of a stratagem which ultimately saved him. Some of the party near the house were yet occasionally firing at the fugitives that made for the woods, so young Lamer, as if he had received a death wound, fell amongst the tall grain. The Indian instantly squatted in the grain also, being apparently suspicious of some trick in his intended victim; but in a short time he raised himself upon his knees, in order to scrutinize where young Lamer lay, when the young fellow who had been arranging his piece for such an occasion, fired upon the Indian and shot him in the brain.—He did not wait to re-load, but, in spite of the soreness of his knee, pushed for the woods, which were but a short distance. Once behind a sheltering tree, he re-loaded his rifle, and having done so, had the satisfaction to find that none of the surviving Indians pursued him; there were many of them engaged in scalping his father and uncle, and a younger brother, and two sisters—while others were in pursuit of his mother and eldest sister, who had succeeded in reaching the woods.

For two nights he continued to wander in the forest, but during the day he remained hidden in some hollow tree. At last, hungered and weary, he reached a distant settlement on the river Delaware, the inhabitants of which immediately formed themselves into an armed party, and set off for the scene of slaughter. On reaching the place they presently discovered the dead bodies of nine Indians, the two brothers, and the remainder of the family, except the eldest daughter and Mrs. L. The two last mentioned, it was evident, had been carried off by the surviving Indians, for their bodies were nowhere to be found. This party remained three or four days in the vicinity of these late scenes of blood; but the mother and daughter returned not. From this period the place was deserted for some years; but the surviving young Lamer marrying, he and his wife took possession of the lone and blood-stained dwelling. The tribe of Indians had removed far away to the vicinity of the Seneca and Caga lakes; so that there was no longer any danger to be apprehended from such rude and barbarous neighbors.—Years rolled on and brought with them a new generation of that devoted family; but more than twenty years passed away without any tidings of the missing females. About this period some settlers from the part of the country where the Larners originally resided, located themselves in the vicinity of the before mentioned lakes, where they lived in peace and good-will with their neighbors the Indians; and from whom they learned the fate of the missing mother and daughter.

They stated that they were pursued and soon captured in the woods; and although they would only submit to be dragged along by force, in that manner they proceeded for a portion of two days. But this mode of proceeding was found so inconvenient to the party, that when they reached the caves in the Moose Mountain, a council was held on their prisoners, when they were adjudged to die. They were then tomahawked according to the customs of those barbarians; and they had no doubt but their skeletons might be found there still. This information was some time afterwards imparted to the son and brother of the deceased, who, embracing the first opportunity, accompanied by their friends, repaired to Moose Mountain, sought out the caves that were almost entirely unknown to white men, and found two skeletons—in the very position they had fallen beneath the tomahawks of their murderers.

They were then removed with much care and labor to the residence of the son, who with true filial affection, interred them in the same grave with the mouldering bodies of their departed kindred. At the time I visited the lone dwelling, the son who had escaped the family massacre was still occupying it. He was now old and gray headed but he still occasionally took his rifle into the woods in pursuit of game. He, too, had been the father of a family of sons and daughters, now all grown up, and all except one, I believe, married and settled, one or two in his own district, but the others had been induced to wander away to the far west. He is still looked upon with a sort of veneration; and scarce a lone traveller ever visits him to whom he does not relate the lamentable fate of his family.

THE LOST CHILD.—A THRILLING STORY.—In the county of Ulster, in the neighborhood of Pennsylvania, lived a man, whose name was Le Fever, he was the grandson of a Frenchman, who was obliged to fly to this country at the revocation of the edict of Nantes. He might well have been called the last of mankind, for he possessed a plantation on the very verge of the valley towards the Blue Mountains, a place of refuge for animals of the deer kind.

This man having a family of eleven children, (a thing by no means uncommon in that country,) was greatly alarmed one morning at missing the youngest, who was about four years of age—he disappeared about ten o'clock. The distressed father sought him in the river, and in the fields, but to no purpose. Terrified to an extreme degree, they united with their neighbors in quest of him. They entered the woods, which they beat over with the most scrupulous attention. A thousand times they called him by name, and were answered only by the echoes of the wilds. They then assembled themselves at the foot of the mountains of Chatagniers (or chestnut trees) without being able to bring the least intelligence of the child. After reposing themselves for some minutes, they formed into different bands—and night coming on, the parents in despair refused to return home;

for their fright constantly increased by the knowledge they had of mountain cats, an animal so rapacious, that the inhabitants cannot always defend themselves against their attacks. They then painted to their imagination the horrid idea of a wolf, or some other dreadful animal, devouring their darling child. "Derick, my poor little Derick! where art thou!" frequently exclaimed the mother in the most poignant language—but all was of no avail.

As soon as daylight appeared, they renewed their search, but as unsuccessfully as the preceding day. Fortunately an Indian laden with furs, coming from an adjacent village, called at the house of Le Fever, intending to repose himself there as he usually did on his travelling through that part of the country. He was much surprised to find no one at home but an old negress, kept there by her infirmities. "Where is my brother?" said the Indian. "Alas!" replied the negro woman "he lost his little Derick, and all the neighborhood are employed in looking after him in the woods." It was then three o'clock in the afternoon. "Sound the horn," said the Indian, "try and call your master home—I will find his child." The horn was sounded; and as soon as the father returned, the Indian asked him for the shoes and stockings that Derick had worn last. He then ordered his dog, which he brought with him to smell of them—and then taking the house for his centre, he described a circle of a quarter of a mile, semi-diameter; ordering the dog to smell the earth wherever he led him. The circle was not completed when the sagacious animal began to bark. This sound brought some feeble ray of hope to the disconsolate parents. The dog followed the scent, and barked again, the party pursued him with all their speed, but soon lost sight of him in the woods. Half an hour afterwards they heard him again, and saw him return. The countenance of the poor dog was visibly altered; an air of joy seemed to animate him, and his gestures seemed to indicate that his search had not been in vain.

"I am sure he has found the child!" exclaimed the Indian. But whether dead or alive, was at present the cruel suspense.—The Indian then followed him to the foot of a large tree where lay the child in an enfeebled state, nearly approaching death.

He took it tenderly in his arms, and hastily carried it to the disconsolate parents. Happily, they were both in some measure prepared to receive the child. Their joy was so great that it was more than a quarter of an hour before they could express their gratitude to the kind restorer of their child. Words cannot express the affecting scene. After they had bathed the face of the child with tears, they threw themselves on the neck of the Indian, whose heart in union melted with theirs. Their gratitude was then extended to the good dog—they caressed him with inexpressible delight as the animal who by means of his sagacity had found their offspring; and conceived that, like the rest of the group, he must now stand in need of refreshments, a plentiful repast was prepared for him, after which he and his master pursued their journey, and the company mutually pleased with the happy event, returned to their respective habitations, highly delighted with the kind Indian and his wonderful dog.

From the Army and Navy Chronicle.

The following letter, written by Major General Jesup, to a friend in this city, explaining his motives for the seizure of Powell and other chiefs and warriors, and the measures which were adopted on the occasion, has been furnished for publication. It gives the details of a very interesting event in this protracted war, and we have thought it not only well worthy the space devoted to it, but as due to General Jesup that his motives should be known.

However revolting the violation of a flag of truce may at first appear, yet when we reflect that the General was dealing with savages, who had once forfeited their plighted faith, and deceived him—that the interview was sought by them, and probably with the worst of motives—it is believed that he will not only be justified by public opinion, on the expediency of the measure, but will be commended for it.

PICOLATA, Nov. 17, 1837.

DEAR SIR:—As I shall depart to-day for the interior, and, in the casualties of an active campaign, I am unable to return, I desire the services of Powell and other chiefs and warriors may be understood by my friends.

Powell, Coscochee, the two Hickees, and several other sub-chiefs, organized the abduction of Micapony and other hostages, in June last. Coscochee, John Cavallo, (the latter one of the hostages,) with several others, carried the hostages off, and with them their people. I then resolved to take all who were concerned in the measure, whenever the opportunity might present. The capture of Philip, by Gen. Hernandez opened the way to effect my object sooner than I had hoped. Coscochee carried off Micapony by force, and if he had been a white man I would have executed him the moment he came into my hands. His father (Philip,) however, asked permission to send him out with messengers to the chiefs and warriors. He returned with one of my hostages, John Cavallo, and with most of the sub-chiefs and warriors who were concerned in the abduction. I determined, at once, that they should be seized and held as hostages for the conduct of the chiefs and warriors.

I sent Lieut. Peyton, commanding at Fort Peyton, a confidential order to seize them if they should come into the fort. Late at night, however, I learned from General Hernandez that they could not be induced to come into the fort, and the messenger whom they sent in, John Cavallo, my hostage, desired the General to carry them off, and with them their people. I then resolved to take all who were concerned in the measure, whenever the opportunity might present. The capture of Philip, by Gen. Hernandez opened the way to effect my object sooner than I had hoped. Coscochee carried off Micapony by force, and if he had been a white man I would have executed him the moment he came into my hands. His father (Philip,) however, asked permission to send him out with messengers to the chiefs and warriors. He returned with one of my hostages, John Cavallo, and with most of the sub-chiefs and warriors who were concerned in the abduction. I determined, at once, that they should be seized and held as hostages for the conduct of the chiefs and warriors.

On the morning of the 21st, Gen. Hernandez called for final instructions. I then informed him that I was inclined not to permit the Indians to escape, and I gave him a memorandum of the heads of the conversation I desired him to hold with them, of which paper No. 2 is a copy. The General departed to Fort Peyton, accompanied by a number of officers and citizens; among the former were the gentlemen of my staff. Without communicating my intention to any one, I followed to the neighborhood of Fort Peyton, sent in for Lieutenant Peyton, and ascertained from him the number and position of the Indians; I directed him to go forward and ascertain whether the answers of the Indians, to the inquiries made by Gen. Hernandez, seemed satisfactory. In the meantime I detached an aid, who had joined me, with orders to Gen. Hernandez to seize all the party if the talk was not satisfactory.

Lieut. Peyton returned to Fort Peyton, whither I had gone, and related to me the substance of the answers given by the Indians. Their answers were evasive and unsatisfactory, and I sent, by Dr. Finlay, an order of which No. 3 is a copy, to seize them. The measure was so promptly and judiciously executed by Major Ashby, of the 2d Dragoons, that the Indians, though their rifles were loaded and pointed for action, had not an opportunity to fire a single gun.

I consider the force of the nation broken by this capture; and though we may have a month or two of hard service, I think the war must terminate early this winter.

Most respectfully and truly yours, TH. S. JESUP.

No. 1.

St. Augustine, 20th October. Should Powell and his warriors come within the fort, seize him and his whole party. It is important that he, Wild Cat, John Coscochee, and Tustenoggee, be secured. Hold them until you have my orders in relation to them.

TH. S. JESUP.

Maj. Gen. Commanding. Lieut. R. H. PEYTON, Fort Peyton.

No. 2.

Memorandum for Gen. Hernandez. "Ascertain the object of the Indians in coming in at this time; also their expectations. Are they prepared to deliver all the negroes taken from the citizens, at once? Why have they not surrendered them already, as promised by Cos-Hajo, at Fort King? Have the chiefs of the council consented to the release of the subjects of the talk at Fort King? What chiefs attended that council, and what was their determination? Have the chiefs sent a messenger with the decision of the council? Have the principal chiefs, Micapony, Jumper, Cloud, and Alligator, sent a messenger? and if so, what is their message? Why have not these chiefs come in themselves?"

THOMAS S. JESUP.

St. Augustine, 21st Oct., 1837.

No. 3.

Fort Peyton, 21st Oct., 1837. GENERAL: Let the chiefs and warriors know that we have been deceived by them long enough, and that we do not intend to be deceived again. Order the whole party directly to town—they have force sufficient to compel obedience, and they must move instantly. I have information of a recent murder by the Indians—they must be disarmed—they can talk in town and send any messages out they please.

THOMAS S. JESUP.

Gen. J. M. HERNANDEZ.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS AND THE HON. MR. FLETCHER.

Below will be found a statement of the majority of the Committee of Ways and Means, repelling the statement published in regard to their conduct during the last session, by the member from Boston.

The undersigned have seen, with surprise, an attack made upon the majority of the Committee of Ways and Means, by the Hon. Richard Fletcher, of Massachusetts, a member of that Committee at the late extra session. In a speech purporting to have been delivered in a public hall, and published in the Atlas and other papers in Boston, the speaker, after stating that the following statement and charges are made, and have not, to their knowledge, been disproved by him. He says that:

"During the session, the business projects upon which the House were called to act, came almost entirely from the Committee of Ways and Means. There are some members of that committee, and some of the following statement and charges are made, and have not, to their knowledge, been disproved by him. He says that: "The undersigned have seen, with surprise, an attack made upon the majority of the Committee of Ways and Means, by the Hon. Richard Fletcher, of Massachusetts, a member of that Committee at the late extra session. In a speech purporting to have been delivered in a public hall, and published in the Atlas and other papers in Boston, the speaker, after stating that the following statement and charges are made, and have not, to their knowledge, been disproved by him. He says that: "The undersigned have seen, with surprise, an attack made upon the majority of the Committee of Ways and Means, by the Hon. 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